

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY WARSAW

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 048023

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: CSCE

SUBJECT: SOVIET POSITION ON CSCE BELGRADE MEETING

1. AT NEXT REGULAR POLADS DISCUSSION OF CSCE, YOU SHOULD
INFORM ALLIES OF THE FOLLOWING.

2. A WORKING LEVEL OFFICIAL OF THE SOVIET EMBASSY IN
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WASHINGTON CALLED ON A STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICER ON MARCH 2
TO DISCUSS CSCE. SPEAKING FROM RUSSIAN NOTES HE PROCEEDED
TO OUTLINE THE SOVIET POSITION ON BELGRADE. HIS PRESENTA-
TION WENT AS FOLLOWS:

3. THE SOVIETS LOOK ON CSCE AS A LONG TERM PROCESS FROM
WHICH THEY HOPE POSITIVE RESULTS WILL ENSUE. THEY WANT

THE ATMOSPHERE SURROUNDING THE BELGRADE CONFERENCE TO BE GOOD, STRESSING DETENTE AND COOPERATION. AT THE OUTSET THE SOVIETS HOPE TO FORMALLY ESTABLISH A POLITICAL CONCEPT OF THE BELGRADE MEETING. FIRST, IT MUST HAVE A CONSTRUCTIVE NATURE. SECOND, IT SHOULD LOOK TO THE FUTURE. THIRD, IT SHOULD NOT BE REGARDED AS A "COMPLAINT OFFICE." FOURTH, THERE SHOULD BE NO ACCOUNTING AS SUCH BY PARTICIPANTS ON THE QUALITY OF THEIR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FINAL ACT.

FIFTH, EACH PARTICIPATING COUNTRY SHOULD DECIDE FOR ITSELF THE SCOPE FOR OUTLINING CONSIDERATIONS ON TASKS TO BE ACCOMPLISHED AT BELGRADE.

4. THE PROPOSAL ON NON-FIRST-USE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS SHOULD COMPRISE A SPECIAL TOPIC OF DISCUSSION, SINCE IT IS ON THE "AGENDA OF INTERNATIONAL LIFE" AND CORRESPONDS TO DETENTE. WHEN ASKED WHETHER THE SOVIETS WANTED THIS SUBJECT TO BE ON THE AGENDA OF THE BELGRADE CONFERENCE AS WELL AS THAT OF "INTERNATIONAL LIFE," THE SOVIET OFFICIAL SAID HE COULD NOT SAY FOR SURE. HE ALSO REFERRED TO THE SOVIET PROPOSALS FOR CONFERENCES DEALING WITH THE ENVIRONMENT, TRANSPORTATION AND ENERGY. HE SAID THE SOVIETS WISHED TO TREAT THEM AS INDEPENDENT, INTERNATIONAL FORUMS FOR WHICH SPECIAL PREPARATIONS WOULD BE REQUIRED. WHEN ASKED WHETHER THE SOVIETS INTENDED TO RAISE THESE SUBJECTS TOO AT BELGRADE, HE SAID HE DID NOT KNOW.

5. THE SOVIET OFFICIAL THEN TURNED TO THE "ORGANIZATIONAL ASPECTS" OF BELGRADE. THE SOVIETS DO NOT WANT THE CONFIDENTIAL

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CONFERENCE TO BE DRAWN OUT. THEY WANT IT TO BE STRICTLY LIMITED IN TIME AND THE DAY OF ADJOURNMENT SET AT THE BEGINNING. THE SOVIETS DO NOT REGARD BELGRADE AS A SECOND EUROPEAN CONFERENCE. IT IS TO HAVE A CONSULTATIVE NATURE ONLY. IT WILL HAVE NO AUTHORITY TO TAKE DECISIONS OR TO CHANGE THE FINAL ACT, SINCE THAT ACT HAD BEEN SIGNED BY POLITICAL LEADERS AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL. IN THE SOVIET VIEW SOME PRACTICAL QUESTIONS COULD BE AGREED UPON AT BELGRADE, PROVIDED THAT THEY RELATED TO MATTERS ALREADY FIXED IN THE FINAL ACT. FOR EXAMPLE, THERE COULD BE AN AGREEMENT ON CONVENING AN EXPERTS MEETING ON THE PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES. SUCH AGREEMENTS, HOWEVER, WOULD NOT HAVE ANY STATUS UNTIL RATIFIED BY GOVERNMENTS AFTER THE END OF THE BELGRADE MEETING.

6. FINALLY, THE SOVIET OFFICIAL SAID THAT THE SOVIETS WOULD BE REPRESENTED AT BELGRADE AT THE LEVEL OF "MEMBER OF THE COLLEGIUM OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS."
(COMMENT: THIS OBVIOUSLY OPENS SEVERAL POSSIBILITIES OF

WHICH ALLIES ARE AWARE, EXAMPLE SOVIET BASKET III NEGOTIATOR DUBININ. ANOTHER POSSIBILITY, OF WHICH ALLIES MAY NOT BE AWARE, WOULD BE MINISTER VORONTSOV OF SOVIET EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON, WHO WE UNDERSTAND WILL RETURN SHORTLY TO MOSCOW AND WILL BE NAMED TO COLLEGIUM.)

7. THE SOVIET OFFICIAL STRESSED THAT THE ABOVE WAS THE OFFICIAL SOVIET POSITION ON BELGRADE AND SAID IT WAS POSSIBLE THAT THIS WOULD ALSO BE COMMUNICATED TO THE DEPARTMENT BY A HIGHER OFFICIAL OF THE EMBASSY.
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